

Amendment to the specification:

Page 6, first paragraph:

With reference to Fig. 1A, a server 11, as marked 3721I server, contains a master database 12, and sub-databases 13, such as company A and company B 5 databases. The various electronic equipment are the public Internet users' tools to access the Internet and then search the 3721I server 11, such as lap top computers, personal computers, cell phones, and other data apparatus. No matter where they are located, they may conduct a search at the 3721I server when they log on the Internet. Fig. 1 shows that the public individual users are linked directly to the 3721I 10 server 11. However, the individual users may also be linked to a portal ISP 14-or ASP-15, and in turn the ISP 14-or ASP-15 is in connection with the 3721I server 11. The ISP 14-or ASP 15-contains its own database or so-called internal database 16 that may include their own personal or business information or telephone directories.

Page 10, second and third paragraph to the upper paragraph of page 11:

Fig. 3B illustrates an index structure established for carrying out the fuzzy search at the web card search engine 23. The index structure of Fig. 3B is similar to that of Fig. 3A. However, the characters form Chinese words or a phrase, as they are constructed at nodes 57' from the Hash table 55' to the hierarchical tree 56'. Each 20 node 57' contains a card index pointer 59'. Each index pointer 59' leads to the name of the name card or other additional information containing such a word. Fig. 3B is in fact a reversed index based on searching words.

The index structure in Figs. 3A and 3B are dynamically maintained. That is to say 25 when the user applies for or modifies a web card, the information of this web card will be transmitted to the web card search engine, including the additional searchable information of all characteristics of the card. The search engine 23 will add such information to the two branches of the hierarchical index tree in Fig. 3A in accordance with the name of the card and its Chinese phonetic spelling. At the same 30 time, the additional information and the name of the card will be divided into several words, and these divided words are added into the index pointers 59' corresponding to the nodes 57' of the index tree in Fig. 3B.

Page 11, bottom paragraph to the upper paragraph of page 12:

For the detailed description of the web card search of the present invention, Fig. 4A illustrates the flowchart of the search process using the accurate or exact matching search. Under the accurate or exact matching search, the search for a name is carried out by inputting 61 inquiry string A, treating the character stream A of the inquiry as the exact matching words for the name. Based on the first character of the character stream A, it will be easy to locate an entry in the Hash table 55 of Fig. 3A. Then, the following process is to find 62 a node Na within the hierarchical tree connected to this entry, to have the character corresponding to Na being equal to the last character of the character stream A of the inquiry. When the characters from the Hash table entry to the node Na are combined together, they should form the characters stream A of the inquiry. This is a traditional computing method, and its time complexity is  $O(N)$ , wherein N is the length of the character stream of the inquiry. When the node Na is found, the content directed by the index pointer 63 contained in the node Na will be the result of desired web cards Ra 64 with all cards matching the inquiry. If such a node is not found, it means that all of the web cards as stored in the memory 58 do not have anything matching the character stream A of the inquiry.

Page 12, the bottom paragraph to upper part of page 13:

Fig. 4B is the flowchart of the fuzzy or approximate search in accordance with the present invention. As shown in Fig. 3B, the index structure of the fuzzy or approximate search is the same as the structure of the accurate or exact matching search. For an inquiry character stream A inputted at the step 81, such as "I would like to find XYZ who works in Beijing for an IT company" in Chinese 我想找在北京做IT工作的XYZ" the search engine 23 will break down, at the step 82 the inquiry into several words through a dictionary having self-study ability in the self-learning Chinese word database 89. Such words constitute a collection W. At the step 83, each word Wx is being dealt with in accordance with the way of computing same as the one for the accurate or exact matching search so as to locate a node Nx among the index structure of Fig. 3B. From each node Nx, a result collection Rx is

generated at the step 84. The result collection Rx contains the web cards that have the name or additional information including the word Wx. All of the result collections Rx are consolidated to constitute a big result collection R at the step 85. During the consolidation, the similarity of each card may be evaluated by weight at the step 86.

- 5 Such similarity may follow certain specific rules. Finally, all of web cards in the big result collection R are sorted out at the step 87 and arranged in accordance with the similarity, and the number of selected search results of web cards is restricted under certain rules so as to obtain the final search result collection R of the fuzzy or approximate search at the step 88.

10

The paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15:

With respect to the flow chart of Fig. 6A, the registered user XW has entered, at step 101, all authorizations to possible users or searchers of the personal information web card system, and assigned authorization passwords or security codes to each

- 15 levels of privacy control at step 102. Then, when a user Y initiates a search at step 103, the registered user XW send out or the web card system sends out for the registered user XW to selected or designated groups of people, at step ~~103~~104, such as the user Y, the corresponding contact information along with the passwords or codes. The user Y may then keeps the contact information at his or her own data
- 20 apparatus or organizers together with the authorization password or code.